# THE EAGLE



Tax Center ready, waiting to save customers \$\$\$.

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## Heritage Hall to display memorabilia

By SSgt. Josh Weber
373rd Intelligence Group
Public Affairs Representative

MISAWA AIR BASE, JAPAN — The Misawa Cryptologic Operations Center is developing a Heritage Hall to display memorabilia memorializing its rich 48-year history. Scheduled to open in July, the project has been at the hands of a planning committee with representatives from all four branches of the military.

"Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines come through these halls every day and really never get an appreciation for all that has happened here," said CMSgt. Jerry Gething, superintendent of the 373rd Intelligence Group. "The MCOC has affected major national-level policy decisions since the Korean War, and we want to display as much of that history as we can."

"We need to recognize the efforts of the many operators, analysts, communicators and logisticians who walked these same halls, sat some of these same positions, and basically blazed the trail for today."

"Getting a project like this off the ground is not easy. We have more than 30 volunteers on multiple committees; covering everything from historical research, logistics, public



Courtesy photo

CMSgt. Jerry Gething, 373rd IG superintendent, tours the facility making final structural decisions with some of the driving forces behind Heritage Hall, MSgt. Kenneth Bennett, and TSgts. Tom Peirson, Tom Watkins, and Ray Antill, all from the 301st Intelligence Squadron.

affairs, ceremony planning and fund raising." said 1st Lt. Matthew Parrish, research committee chairperson. "Some of the most interesting work has been the historical

research. Especially tracking down and reaching out to retirees and former military

See "Heritage," page 7



"I want to thank you in advance for taking time to participate in the 2002 Chief of Staff Organization Climate Survey. This is a great opportunity for you to provide direct feedback about how well your leadership and organizations are functioning.

Sustaining the world's preeminent air and space force requires excellence in the work environment. This survey will provide valuable information to all AF leaders to achieve that

goal. This is an anonymous survey. We have used the most advanced information-masking software available to ensure your anonymity. The

questions in the survey itself are intentionally hard-hitting and I fully expect your direct, honest, and candid feedback.

Our goal is to make things better for our people and our organizations. I'm counting on each of you to do your part by responding to this survey. In doing so you Speak Today and Shape Tomorrow. I look forward to sharing the results with you later in the year.

The United States Air Force is the finest in the world, a great place to serve and raise our families. We share a commitment to make it even better."

www.csafsurvey.af.mil

General John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force

### Commander's Corner

## Watch out for each other, now more than ever

**by Col. Harold J. Beatty** 70th Intelligence Wing Commander

"We are at War!" These few words have been echoed across the wing, nation and throughout the world since the terrorist attacks September 11. The President says not only are we at war, but that we will be at war for a long time to come — you don't have to be sitting in some war room in the Pentagon to know and understand this. Our operations tempo is at an increased level and I don't foresee it changing anytime soon.

With this in mind, I'd like to remind each of you about how important you are to the wing and Air Force mission and ultimately the country. We are a huge and very important team, and there isn't a single operation being performed, whether it's the fight against terrorism abroad or homeland security where we are not involved. I know this can call for longer duty days or occasional weekend work, but I can guarantee that the terrorists are working long hours and doing whatever it takes to accomplish their goals.

As we continue this fight, we cannot forget to observe coworkers and ourselves and watch for signs of stress. Look for the signs or indicators that

there may be some trouble brewing. These may include: Withdrawing from friends/family/social activities, marital and relationship problems, disciplinary problems, feelings of hopelessness (i.e., "The world would be better off without me"), troubles concentrating, giving belongings away, changes in sleeping and or eating habits, drastic changes in behavior or conversation or thoughts preoccupied with death/dying/committing suicide.

If you or any of your coworkers should see or experience any of these signs, I ask that you seek help through the Helping Agency Response Team or "HART". This program offers a collection of information and helping agencies that you can use to identify or get help for a problem. The November and December issues of "The Eagle" offer a HART card that you may clip out. You can also obtain a HART card through your orderly room, First Sergeant or Chaplian. I encourage you to take the time to get this information and keep it in your wallet, pocket, work area or home and use it if you need it.

As I stated earlier, world events have changed out lives forever, but we cannot sit back and hope it will all go away without action. The new challenges will not go away on their



Col. Harold J.Beatty

own and we must continue the fight for as long as it takes.

We must live life to it's fullest, enjoy each and every day with friends and family and we must continue to do our jobs well. It is with this hard work and love of life that -will get us through these very tough and stressful times.

Thomas Paine, a famous American writer from the Revolutionary period wrote — "Those who expect to reap the blessings of liberty must undergo the fatigues of supporting it." His words are as true now as when he penned them more than 200 years ago.

## Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to the 70th Intelligence Wing Commander -- Use it wisely!

This is the location for the Commander's Action Line column. An action line is a monthly column designed to address the questions and concerns of members of the 70th Intelligence Wing.

The column is intended as a forum to support individual concerns and should be used in conjunction with the "Chain

of Command," Inspector General, Chaplain, or other professional means.

Try to resolve issues and problems at the lowest level possible. If you feel you are not getting satisfactory results, you may direct your concern to this forum.

Questions and concerns must be accompanied with a complete name, phone number or e-mail address for official responses. Those without names or contact information will not be printed, but will receive the commander's attention. Action items can be brought into the PA office in building 9805 room 212 or e-mailed to Richard.corral@ft-meade.af.mil

Look for an Action Line hot button on the 70 IW web page.



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All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. **The EAGLE** is a monthly publication. Deadline for submissions is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Call Public Affairs at 301-677-0838 with story ideas or items of interest. Public Affairs is located in Bldg. 9805. room 212.

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Lt.Col.Lorry M. Fenner
Vice Commander
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## Wing Issues

# Career Corner Wing advisor shares useful career decision tools

**by MSgt. Pete Rich** 70th Intelligence Wing Career Assistance Advisor

Making career decisions means staying informed. It means gathering the facts; identifying and weighing those factors; listing options and prioritizing them. It means doing your homework. In order to help you to gather that information, I've dedicated this month's article to providing you with some useful resources. Take the time to get the facts straight.

One of the major concerns for all is pay compensation. Go to www.saffm.hq.af.mil/ affsc/index/index.cfm to answer all sorts of pay questions, from current pay scales to retirement calculations. Use the salary calculator to estimate your retirement pay. Factor in your Survivor Benefit Plan to estimate cost and annuity. This site will link you to other informative sites on topics such as Thrift Savings Plan, Montgomery GI Bill and other educational benefits, TRICARE, tax assistance and much more. Check out www.salary.com to compare average incomes for your particular career field in specific geographic locations.

Every Air Force member with a home computer should have www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/careercorner bookmarked. This is the first stop for all questions pertaining to your Air Force career. There you will find information on promotions, assignments, education, finances and more. Click on the supervisor button to get a detailed listing of useful websites. From this page you can link to Air Force Crossroads which is a community-focused resource for the whole family. At this innovative website you can find information on family separation and readiness, eldercare, dental and medical



MSgt. Pete Rich, 70th Intelligence Wing Career Assistance Advisor

Photo by MSgt. Rick Corral

care, parenting, spouse networking, and relocation assistance, just to name a few.

If you want to learn more about the assignment process go directly to the source at http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlisted/enlisted.htm. Check out the latest Equals listing for overseas assignments. Click on Equals Plus for special duty information. And don't miss the Frequently Asked Questions section. Your questions may be answered already.

If retraining is something that you're interested in, then go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.enlskills.retraining.htm for explanations of the two programs available, CAREERS and NCORP. Here, you will also find listings of current retraining opportunities. Be sure to look at the special notes for critical career fields.

One last (but not least) site to check out is www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/

benefits.htm. This page will provide you with the latest Air Force Benefits Fact Sheet. Although required by AFI 36-2618 many supervisors fail to discuss this informative fact sheet with their subordinates. Nonetheless, you owe it to yourself to take a look at it. Use it as a guide when determining the various factors that you need to weigh when considering to continue your Air Force career. Don't overlook many of the benefits that we take for granted in the military.

These are just a few suggestions on where to look for answers. Take the time to research your options. *Supervisors*, take the time to discuss career opportunities, desires, options, etc. with your subordinates. You are the linchpin in securing the future of our Air Force. Get all the information on the table before making your career decisions.

### Helpful stops along the Air Force career path

#### Pay questions:

www.saffm.hq.af.mil/affsc/index/index.cfm

#### Career issues:

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/careercorner

#### Assignments:

http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlisted/enlisted.htm

#### **Retraining:**

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.enlskills.retraining.htm

#### **Career Assistance Advisor:**

MSgt. Pete Rich Bldg. 9801, Rm. 126A 301-677-0371

## Air Force News

# Air Force committed to AEF cycles

by Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON**— The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct—a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people

who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that

there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

"It might work out that only one or two unit type codes out of an entire civil engineering squadron might be the stressed career field," Kohler said. "We just don't know yet because we haven't gotten down to that level of fidelity."

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Freedom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

"The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success," Kohler said. "The reason we are stressed is simple — we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (U.S.) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up."

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay deployed a little longer—some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on our deployed people

is to find additional airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

"This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper," Kohler said. "We'd like to be able to find people who we haven't originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don't deploy. For example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the **AETC** leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we're



looking at all options."

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

"This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country," Jumper recently told commanders. "The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent."

## Wing News

# 543 IG member gives back through local hospice program



Photo by SSgt. John Waldron

TSgt. Crist Middaugh, 543rd IG, plays checkers with the late Alfredo De La Cruz as part of the Santa Rosa Hospice Program.

**By SSgt. John Waldron** 543rd Intelligence Group Public Affairs Representative

SAN ANTONIO -- Alfredo De La Cruz, a retired painter, recently spent an afternoon joking and playing checkers with TSgt. Crist Middaugh, a volunteer from the Santa Rosa Hospice Program. Just a few days later, De La Cruz passed away after a hard fought battle against Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Middaugh, who is stationed in San Antonio with the 543rd Intelligence Group, says working as a hospice volunteer gives him an opportunity to show love to patients like De La Cruz who are suffering from terminal illnesses.

"It is amazing to me how much of an impact you can make by visiting someone a few hours every week," says Middaugh, who started volunteering after his wife, Denise, accepted a full-time position with the program last fall.

He says patients and their families participating in hospice programs look forward to the visits.

"A few months ago we had a birthday party for one of our patients who was

turning 94," he explains. "After the party, her son pulled me aside and told me that it was the first time in a month that she was alert and responding to the people around her."

The Santa Rosa program is one of 13 hospice programs in the San Antonio area that reach out to local residents, according to Denise Middaugh, volunteer coordinator for the Santa Rosa program.

She says the types of patients involved in hospice vary dramatically. "Our oldest patient is 94-years-old and our youngest patient is a 7-month-old infant," she explains.

Middaugh says the 40 hospice volunteers currently serving in the program work in a variety of areas. "Hospice can mean everything from providing patients with companionship to delivering food during the holidays to families caring for a sick relative," she comments.

The demand for hospice volunteers, according to Middaugh, continues to grow. "People have no idea what a difference an hour of their time can make to someone," she comments. "Just sitting with a visitor and talking can bring a hospice patient so much joy."

## Air Force celebrates Black History Month

Courtesy of

70th Intelligence Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." Both celebrations were initiated by Carter G. Woodson, a pre-eminent historian and founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Woodson was concerned that the contributions of Black Americans were overlooked or misrepresented, so he began lobbying for Negro History Week as early as 1915.

He selected February because it included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14) whom he believed had dramatically impacted the lives of Black Americans. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history.

In 1976, Woodson's legacy, now renamed the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, successfully lobbied to extend Black History Week into a month-long observance. It was then officially established by a Presidential Proclamation. DoDD 1440.1 makes it clear the Department of Defense supports all ethnic observances and expects each military service branch to do so as well.

February is a chance to reflect on the contributions made to the world by those of African descent. Each year, a new theme is chosen for Black History Month. The theme for 2002 is "The African-American Legacy: Contributions and Service In America's Defense."

## Tax Time!

## Taxes prepared, electronically filed free at tax center

#### **Courtesy of**

70th Intelligence Wing Staff Judge Advocate

The tax season is upon us, and the 70th Intelligence Wing Unit Tax Advisors have been ready and waiting since Feb. 5 to provide free assistance in preparing and filing federal and state income tax returns.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program assists all active duty service members, retirees, reservists on active duty, and their dependents who would like assistance completing their tax forms and to take advantage of free electronic filing. Last year, the 70IW Tax Center and Garrison Tax Center saved customers more than \$250,000 in tax preparation fees.

The first step to having your tax return prepared is to contact your unit tax

advisor who will have a packet of forms to be completed and a checklist of items to submit. Once you have completed the forms and have all documents listed on the checklist, the tax advisor will bring your packet to the tax center to be electronically filed. Once the tax return has been transmitted and accepted by the Internal Revenue Service, you will get a confirmation issued by the IRS and a complete copy of your tax return.

VITA is a free service offered by the Department of Defense. Each unit volunteer has been trained and certified by the IRS in the preparation of individual tax returns. The Maryland Department of Revenue also trains the volunteers in preparing Maryland State Tax Returns.

Several of the more experienced UTAs will be able to assist you in preparing tax returns from other states. The advantages

of electronically filing your federal tax return are accurate computer-generated calculations and refunds in less than two weeks in most cases.

Some UTAs can also prepare and electronically file more complicated tax returns, including Forms 1040 and the various schedules. A portion of the VITA training is geared to assist military taxpayers, and the tax rules that could apply.

The UTAs and the Tax Center have direct contact with the IRS through a VITA Hotline, so unique situations can be researched and answered usually within 24 hours. The Tax Center is located in Bldg. 9804, Room 104B. People can contact the center at 301-677-0448, but unit tax advisors must be contacted for tax return assistance.

## ~ 70th Intelligence Wing Unit Tax Advisors ~

\* Denotes UTAs qualified to assist with all tax forms and schedules.

22nd Intelligence Squadron		91st Intelligence Squadron		Cryptologic Naval Security Group	
301-688-7734	Capt. Cherie LeGrarde	410-854-8188	CTT1 Michael Curry	240-373-3337	
443-479-0250	Lt. Col. Michael Milewski	410-854-4691	CTMCS Gregory Guidry	240-373-3388	
301-688-6484	Maj. Paul Nicholson*	410-854-4713	CDR Hulen Davis	240-373-3619	
301-688-2632	1st Lt. Sylvia Watts	410-854-7082	<b>Detachment 2</b>		
301-688-6781	94th Intelligence Squadron	<u>l</u>	MSgt. Lisa Hennessey	301-677-3899	
301-688-7979	SSgt. Veronica Wasilewski	301-688-4803	Joint Field Support Center	• -	
301-688-7945	694th Support Squadron		SSgt. Kevin Glassford		
301-688-7762	SSgt. Racquel James	443-479-5556	301-677-2134 ext. 7745		
443-479-0263	SSgt. Kimberly Koellner	301-677-0232	SMSgt. Peter Oettinger*		
301-677-0226	SrA Shadrine Young	301-677-0232	301-677-2134 ext. 7773		
301-688-5471	70th Intelligence Wing		SSgt. Dave Readmond		
<u>1</u>	Maj. Charles Brown 301-677-0811		301-677-2134 ext. 4220		
301-688-3230	TSgt. Jonathan Dilligard	301-677-0658	<u>Headquarters Defense Courier Service</u>		
443-479-5055	TSgt. Joseph Mouton	301-677-0407	Mr. Dieter Ralston	301-677-4974	
32nd Intelligence Squadron Air Force Cryptologic Office		(* Denotes UTAs qualified to assist with all tax			
301-688-6171	MSgt. Tony Hardin	301-688-5441	forms and schedules.)		
	301-688-7734 443-479-0250 301-688-6484 301-688-6781 301-688-7979 301-688-7945 301-688-7945 301-688-762 443-479-0263 301-677-0226 301-688-5471 1 301-688-3230 443-479-5055	301-688-7734 Capt. Cherie LeGrarde 443-479-0250 Lt. Col. Michael Milewski 301-688-6484 Maj. Paul Nicholson* 301-688-2632 1st Lt. Sylvia Watts 301-688-6781 94th Intelligence Squadron 301-688-7979 SSgt. Veronica Wasilewski 301-688-7945 694th Support Squadron 301-688-7762 SSgt. Racquel James 443-479-0263 SSgt. Kimberly Koellner 301-677-0226 SrA Shadrine Young 301-688-5471 70th Intelligence Wing Maj. Charles Brown 301-688-3230 TSgt. Joseph Mouton Air Force Cryptologic Office	301-688-7734       Capt. Cherie LeGrarde       410-854-8188         443-479-0250       Lt. Col. Michael Milewski       410-854-4691         301-688-6484       Maj. Paul Nicholson*       410-854-4713         301-688-2632       1st Lt. Sylvia Watts       410-854-7082         301-688-6781       94th Intelligence Squadron         301-688-7979       SSgt. Veronica Wasilewski       301-688-4803         301-688-7945       694th Support Squadron         301-688-7762       SSgt. Racquel James       443-479-5556         443-479-0263       SSgt. Kimberly Koellner       301-677-0232         301-677-0226       SrA Shadrine Young       301-677-0232         301-688-5471       70th Intelligence Wing         Maj. Charles Brown       301-677-0811         301-688-3230       TSgt. Jonathan Dilligard       301-677-0407         Air Force Cryptologic Office	301-688-7734         Capt. Cherie LeGrarde         410-854-8188         CTT1 Michael Curry           443-479-0250         Lt. Col. Michael Milewski         410-854-4691         CTMCS Gregory Guidry           301-688-6484         Maj. Paul Nicholson*         410-854-4713         CDR Hulen Davis           301-688-2632         1st Lt. Sylvia Watts         410-854-4713         Detachment 2           301-688-6781         94th Intelligence Squadron         MSgt. Lisa Hennessey           301-688-7979         SSgt. Veronica Wasilewski         301-688-4803         Joint Field Support Center           301-688-7945         694th Support Squadron         SSgt. Kevin Glassford           301-688-7762         SSgt. Racquel James         443-479-5556         301-67           443-479-0263         SSgt. Kimberly Koellner         301-677-0232         SMSgt. Peter Oettinger*           301-688-5471         70th Intelligence Wing         SSgt. Dave Readmond           Maj. Charles Brown         301-677-0811         301-67           301-688-3230         TSgt. Jonathan Dilligard         301-677-0407         Headquarters Defense Condition           443-479-5055         TSgt. Joseph Mouton         301-677-0407         Mr. Dieter Ralston           Air Force Cryptologic Office         *Denotes UTAs qualified to	

70th Intelligence Wing Tax Center 301-677-0448

Fort Meade Tax Center 301-677-6619

Internal Revenue Service Website http://www.irs.gov

## **Briefs**

#### **SBP**

On Dec. 28, President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 into law (Public Law 107-107), which changed who is entitled to receive an active duty death Survivor Benefit Plan annuity.

The new law provides that an SBP annuity be paid (retroactive to Sep. 10, 2001) to the spouse, dependent child(ren), or former spouse (if court ordered) of any active duty member who dies in the line of duty, regardless of years of service. Previously, the SBP annuity was only paid to the families of retirement-eligible members who died on active duty. More information on active duty SBP coverage can be found at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/SBP/actduty.htm.

#### **Slavery Reparation Scams**

The Internal Revenue Service warns tax-payers not to be misled into filing slavery reparation claims. Unscrupulous promoters are deceiving people into paying for advice on how to file for reparations. However, there is no provision in the tax law that allows tax credits or refunds related to slavery reparations. To view the IRS news release on this subject, go to http://www.ustreas.gov/irs/ci/tax\_fraud/ir2002\_08.htm. And for an IRS fact sheet, go to http://www.ustreas.gov/irs/ci/tax\_fraud/fs2002\_08.htm.

#### **ITR**

Information, Tickets and Reservation



Photo by MSgt. Rick Corral

Re-up!

SrA. Thomas Terhune, an analyst assigned to the 22nd Intelligence Squadron, takes the reenlistment oath from Col. Lawrence Pokabla, 70th Intelligence Wing individual mobilization augmentee at National Vigilance Park here. Terune chose to reenlist because he 'Didn't want to leave the Air Force in the middle of a war.'

Office has discount tickets for the following activities and attractions: concerts, sporting events, theater tickets and Colonial Williamsburg. ITR also offers discount movie tickets. Cost is: Hoyts theaters, \$6.25; UA cinemas, \$5.75; and Arundel Mills' Muvico, \$5.25. Call 301-677-7354.

#### **Video Bible Ministry**

The 70th Intelligence Wing chaplains' office invites everyone to join in on Video Bible Ministry each Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bldg. 9801 Centerlink multi-purpose room. Snacks are provided. For more information, call SrA Clara Wise at 301-677-0811.

#### "Heritage," from page 1

members who served on Security Hill during their careers."

The 1st Radio Squadron Mobile, or just "1st Radio," came to Misawa on January 26, 1953 and began the Security Hill tradition. "... in my memory, '1st Radio' was used generically by everyone, from operators and staff, to the cab and bus drivers downtown, to denote what I guess is now referred to as Security Hill," recalls Robert Mason who served with the successor to the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile, the 6989th Radio Squadron Mobile from 1959 through 1961.

Much of the planning for the project has been shouldered by three technical sergeants from the 301st intelligence Squadron: Ray Antil, Tom Pierson, and Tom Watkins. They worked relentlessly for the last four months laying the groundwork for the project.

"We formed the committees to help us get going, and we have started to solicit memorabilia from as many former Security Hill vets as we can contact," said Antil. Lee Martin, a retired senior master sergeant, helped us build a web page and has been our local retiree point of contact," said Pierson.

"This is great! All three of us are signals operators and analysts, and making contact with those who have done this work before us is pretty exciting. I just hope we can build something they can be proud of," said Watkins.

The groundbreaking is projected to start in March and construction is expected to last about two months. A grand ribbon cutting ceremony is also being planned. All former Security Hill members will be invited to attend.

"Many great Americans have worked

on Security Hill. They devoted at least a piece of their lives in the service of their country as silent warriors. We're going to cut the ribbon in July and invite as many folks back as possible to be among the first to walk through it. I can't wait to see them standing here, reliving their past, as they watch today's youth walk into work," said Gething.

Anyone ever assigned to Security Hill at Misawa Air Base and interested in making a donation of memorabilia or a financial contribution can contact the project managers through TSgt. Lacherie Fails (lacherie.fails@misawa.af.mil).

The layout of the memorabilia within the display cases has not yet been determined and will be based on the material received. To learn more about the Heritage Hall Project, visit www.misawajapan.com and follow the links to Heritage Hall.

## Spotlight



Photo by SSgt. Kristina Brown

▶ Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Ross, 694th IG/DO, is 'STEP' promoted to master sergeant by Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Keck, 8th Air Force commander and Col. Harold J. Beatty, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, during a surprise ceremony here. Gen. Keck presented the Stripes for Exceptional Performers stripe as Ross was briefing him as part of a familiarization slide show presentation. 'It took me totally by surprise,' said Ross. 'I was giving the briefing, and then the general started asking questions with a firm attitude. I was prepared for the questions, but the promotion was quite a shock. 'It was hard grilling this young man with a straight face,' Added Gen. Keck. 'I had four stripes to give out command wide, and Sergeant Ross was certainly deserving of one.'



Photo by SSgt. Kristina Brown

▲ 694th Intelligence Group Annual Award winners pictured (from left) are: Airman of the Year, SrA Julia Kimbrell, 94th Intelligence Squadron; NCO, TSgt. Stefano Masi, 29th Intelligence Squadron; SNCO, MSgt. Warren Wofford, 29 IS; CGO, Capt. Jason Lindsey, 91st Intelligence Squadron; Civilian (Category I), Mr. Robert Effler, 694 IG; Honor Guardsman, SrA Carl Byrd, 91 IS; First Sergeant, SMSgt. Robert Rockenstire, 91 IS. ✓ Lt. Col. Claire Saucier, 22nd Intelligence Squadron commander, shows off her squadron's 'Squadron of the Year' trophy.



Photo by MSgt. Rick Corra

Lt. Col. Claire Saucier, 22nd Intelligence Squadron commander, shares with her support staff some of the many 'Letters to Any Military Member' she recently received from the American Legion Auxiliary in her hometown. The letters were written by school children and other well-wishers wanting to show their support to the military, both stateside and abroad. The remainder of the 130 letters was distributed among all of the 70th Intelligence Wing's squadrons. Those who received letters will soon respond.

Think 'OPSEC'

Photo by MSgt. Rick Corral